



Dairy for nutrition, employment and sustainability

The Netherlands and East Africa share a long history of cooperation in the dairy sector. Dairy is valuable in fighting malnutrition, especially as a source of protein for vulnerable groups. The growing demand for dairy offers opportunities for the local dairy sector and for smallholder farmers. Dairy animals are important in closing the nutrient cycle by upgrading crop and other residues into food.

The Netherlands East African Dairy Partnership (NEADAP), which started in 2018, offers a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience to tackle current challenges and leverage further development in East African dairy. In its first phase, NEADAP organised exchange, learning and documentation around animal fodder, milk quality and inclusive dairy business. In the second phase (2021–2023), NEADAP is focusing on testing and adaptive scaling of these and other proven approaches and technologies.

The NEADAP core partners are Agriterro, SNV, Solidaridad and Wageningen University & Research (WUR), each with their own knowledge, expertise, networks, local partners and projects in East Africa. All partners have strong working relationships with farmers organizations, service providers, processors and dairy authorities. Their networks also include international dairy actors such as the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and dairy non-government organizations (NGOs). This network around NEADAP is fundamental for the shared ambition to make dairy a valuable component in the transformation towards sustainable food systems.

NEADAP is focusing on the following result areas, tied to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Providing affordable, safe and nutritious diets for vulnerable groups of consumers, including young children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers (SDG 2)
- Developing value chains that generate rural incomes and improved livelihoods, driven by shared interest and realizing assured quality, high efficiency and fair shares of margins (SDGs 10, 17)
- Developing dairy farming systems that sustain the agroecological base, which requires farming systems that are productive, profitable, resource-efficient, ecologically sustainable and climate-smart (SDGs 1, 8, 12, 13).

In the first phase, NEADAP worked mainly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. In the next phase it will also engage with stakeholders in Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

The products of NEADAP

Building on the experiences across East Africa and the priorities in its dairy action agenda, NEADAP is developing 11 products (see table below). NEADAP products are proven approaches and technologies that contribute to the result areas above. Each product has a product lead and a small multidisciplinary team working on the development, packaging and scaling of the product. This comes with the understanding that in many cases adaptation for a new context will be needed to scale up successfully. Activities may include mobilising expertise and networks around introduction events or developing high quality training and extension material. A community of practice will be part of the scaling process.

Products and targets NEADAP 2022–2023

Products per theme (and current status)	Targets and activities	Product lead
Healthy diets for vulnerable consumers		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School feeding: pilot and documentation Uganda 	Packaging of product, support for adaptation in three additional countries, learning about adaptation	TBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-cost probiotic yoghurt: business case Uganda and Ethiopia 	Adaptation in Rwanda and scaling in Kenya and Tanzania, documentation about adaptation	Nieke Westerik (Yoba for Life)
Milk safety and value chain collaboration		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality-based milk payment systems: business cases in Kenya and Uganda 	Packaging of product (including preparing guideline), support for scaling in Kenya, adaptation in two additional countries	Martin de Jong (SNV TIDE)
Self-sustaining extension services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperative and private-based extension services: pilots in Uganda and Kenya 	Documentation of pilots, packaging of product, scaling within Kenya and Uganda, support for adaptation in two additional countries	Agnes Janszen (Agriterra)
Sustainable dairy farming systems		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen forage seed markets: pilots in Kenya and Uganda 	Documentation of pilots, packaging of product, addressing regulatory issues, adaptation in two additional countries	TBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed rationing tool Rumen8: business cases in Kenya and Uganda 	Scaling throughout the region, establishing centres of support	Jos Creemers (ProDairy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri contracting service providers – SMEs: Business case in Kenya and pilot in Uganda 	Mainstreaming in Kenya, scaling in Uganda, adaptation in two other countries	Wytze Heida (Bles Dairies Consultancy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manure management practices 	Pilot in Kenya, development of business case, packaging as suitable product	TBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability assessment tool Triple P: pilots in Uganda and Ethiopia 	Further development of tool based on pilot, application in three countries as contribution to policy dialogue	Jan van der Lee (WUR)
Future dairy professional		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job profiles, competencies and blended-learning modules (pilot) 	Develop comprehensive package (based on scattered available material), apply in three countries	TBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding modules in education and extension (pilot) 	Develop comprehensive package (based on scattered available material), apply in two countries	TBC
Policy dialogue and networking		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two networking events in the Netherlands One networking event in East Africa Six regular regional exchange opportunities 		Wim Goris (NFP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know how on Scaling Product design and formulation 		Simone van Vugt (WUR) Titia Nijeboer (SNV)
NEADAP may consider supporting two additional products that show clear potential and demand.		

Most products mentioned above have been tested in one or more pilot situations. The product teams are now working on ‘packaging’ to enable adaptive and responsible scaling. NEADAP uses a demand-based approach: it will encourage as many different organizations and entities as possible to apply for and benefit from the various products, and it will target its support to maximize joint learning and joint improvement of the dairy sector.

For more information see: https://www.nfoodpartnership.com/impact_coalitions/neadap/.

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